

A PROPOSAL

Humbly offered

To the King and Parliament,

FOR RAISING

A Considerable Sum of Mony Yearly to His MAJESTY.

BY

James Lord Mordington, B. Whitelocke Esq; and Rich. Cotton Cloth-Worker.

THAT an *Imposition* be laid upon all **Broad Cloth**; *Viz.* on the finest Sort of 12 Shillings *per* Yard and upwards, the Sum of Three Pence *per* Yard; On the middling Sort from Six to Twelve Shillings *per* Yard, the Sum of Two Pence *per* Yard; On all Broad Cloth under Six Shillings *per* Yard, One Penny *per* Yard. And proportionably on all Stuffs, Serges, and all other woven wollen Manufactures.

That Offices be erected in requisite Places, with leaden Seals and Stamps to be set on the Cloth, Stuffs, &c. upon pain of Forfeiture, if sold without.

This by Computation will produce to His Majesty about Two Millions *per Annum*, from what is Imported, Exported, and Spent here. Which will be a very considerable Revenue to the King, for His carrying on the present War with France.

And, far from proving a heavy Tax upon the Commodities aforesaid, 'twill scarce be felt by the Nation. For he that wears the finest Cloth shall pay but Nine Pence for a Suit consisting at most of Three Yards, and perhaps of Three or Four Pounds Value or more; For the middling Sort, Six Pence *per* Suit; and for the coarsest, Three Pence *per* Suit. The Wearer or Spender in reality paying the Tax; and the Clothier, Merchant, and Retailer paying nothing but what they receive again from the Spender.

The *Turks*, and all *foreign Nations*, will Contribute by the Exportation, more than Our Selves; the Exportations being generally far beyond the Quantity of What we spend at Home, and the Merchants receiving again from their foreign Correspondents what they Pay here for the Tax.

And, whereas there are great Quantities of our *English Wool* and *Fullers Earth* Transported daily beyond Sea (which is the greatest Detriment to the Cloathing Trade, the chief Manufacture of this Kingdom) an Effectual Law to prevent the Exportation thereof for the future will much Advance the Interest of the Kingdom in general, and of the King in particular, as will appear by these Two following Reasons.

I. That *English Wool* is naturally Oily and Fat, and will mix with any other Wool. Whereas *Foreign Wool* being naturally Dry, and either too Course or too Fine, cannot be Milled or Fulled to any Perfection, without a Mixture of ours.

II. That without *English Wool* and *Fullers Earth*, no good Cloth can be made in any Part of the World, besides *England*. And consequently by such Effectual Prohibition the whole Trade universally will be our own. Which will very much Enrich the Nation, and with this Imposition will yield a very great Yearly Revenue to the King; easy to every one in particular, and an Ease to the Nation in general, in Raising the present necessary Supplies for the War.

And this moreover answers all Objections of the Clothiers, Who, besides their Paying nothing but what they receive again upon Sale as before, will by such Effectual Prohibition receive far greater Advantage, than they can any ways pretend to be Grieved by this Tax.

The Discoveries of the several Ways and Methods used, together with the Advantages and Correspondencies made for the clandestine Exportation both of our Wool and Fullers Earth, being a great Help and Insight to Reform and Prevent these Abuses; the said Proposers are ready to make out the same, with some other Precautions to that effect, if these their Proposals find Acceptance.

